
THE NEWSLETTER OF DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL PTSA

Volume 3, Issue 6

April-May-June, 2008

From the Principal's Desk...

As the school year is about to end, I look back on the many successes of our students and staff. This May we will be giving 730 AP tests to students, the highest number ever at Damascus High School. These students have worked extremely hard preparing for this college level test and I am proud of what they have accomplished. Our teachers are doing an excellent job working with them to make sure they are successful. We also add to a strong academic program by offering 3 college classes here at DHS that were taught by teachers from Montgomery College. Approximately 45 students took advantage of this opportunity and shared that it was good experience for them.

On June 4th we will be holding our annual Awards Program for students in grades 9 - 11. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this evening. Students will be awarded certificates for maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or better for all three marking periods this year or for a cumulative GPA.

May and June are very busy months with many activities planned.

May 5	May 16 -AP testing
May 17	Junior-Senior Prom at the University of Md. Conference Center from 8 - 12 pm
May 19 - 22	HSA exams – see special schedule attached in newsletter
May 19 - 22	Senior exams
May 21	Awards Ceremony grade 12 and Arts festival 7:00p.m.
May 30	Graduation 10:00 a.m. at Damascus High Stadium - <u>No school</u>
June 4	Awards Ceremony- grades 9-11
June 6 - 11	Exams – grades 9-11

Important Upcoming Events for Seniors

Senior Breakfast – May 16th during 1st and 2nd periods

Mr. Damascus – May 1st, 7:00 pm

Graduation Rehearsal – Thursday, May 29th in morning

Senior Picnic – Thursday, May 29th, following Rehearsal at Butler's Orchard

Graduation – Friday, May 30th at 10:00 am on Stadium Field

Graduation Tickets: All student obligations must be paid prior to obtaining graduation tickets

Six (6) Graduation tickets will be distributed at the senior parent meeting on May 13 at 6:00 p.m. Other tickets may be requested but are limited based on availability and need

Our seniors have done a wonderful job in their four years at Damascus and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. I wish them good luck and much success in the future.

I would like to thank Shannon Black, Christine Ritter, and Jennifer Rawlings for the fine job they did with our morning announcements. They provide a tremendous service to our school.

Robert Domergue
Principal

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From the Principal's Desk... (CONT.)

Congratulations

Mrs. Goldsmith, Mrs. Schley and Mrs. Russell and their students who helped with the Empty Bowl Supper for the Damascus Help. These staff and their students gave up their time and created soup bowls and provided food to raise money for a very needy cause. Thanks you for thinking of others in need.

Mrs. Mendez and the International Club for the fine job they did sponsoring International Night. It was a fun evening!

Mr. Doherty and the instrumental music students for the excellent job they did with their performances in Boston.

Mrs. King for reaching 300 victories coaching softball.

Mr. James Will for 40 years of teaching in MCPS.

Eliza Rownaghi and Stephanie Williams, digital photographers. Eliza's "Green Focus" photograph placed 1st in State within the black and white category and Stephanie's "Green Focus" photograph placed 2nd in State in the color category.

Alexandra Morella was selected and served for two weeks as a Student Page at the 2008 Maryland General Assembly. This is a very competitive program, and to be selected is a truly noteworthy accomplishment.

Francis Dwyer, 10th grade, won 2 gold medals, a silver medal, and a bronze medal in the Special Olympics Meet held the weekend of April 12th – 13th. Way to go Francis!

DHS Artists Jackie Leo and Kelly VanDermeeren had their works on display in the Johns Hopkins Education Building in Baltimore from April 10th – April 22nd.

Brittney Johnson competed in the ACT-SO competition and won a 1st place medal for dramatics and a 3rd place medal for original essay. She is now going to Disney World to compete nationally. We congratulate her on her medals, and wish her success in Disney World.

College Signing

Congratulations to the following students for signing letters of intent:

Drew Daggan – Waynesburg University for football and outdoor track

Wil Zaharodny – UNC Wilmington for cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track

Amanda Zyzak – Waynesburg University for cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track

Winter 2007/08 Post Season Awards

Jamie Kaufman	Basketball	All-Met Honorable Mention Washington Post All-League 1st Team Washington Post All-Gazette 1 st Team
Greg Marshall	Basketball	MCPS All-Star Game MCPS Coaches
Mac Minturn	Basketball	MCPS All-Star Game MCPS Coaches
Raquel Villacarlos	Basketball	All-Gazette Honorable Mention
Tom Arias	Indoor Track	All-Gazette Honorable Mention All-State 3rd Team Maryland Coaches
Ben Constantinides	Indoor Track	All-Gazette Honorable Mention All-State 3rd Team Maryland Coaches
Jon Constantinides	Indoor Track	All-Gazette Honorable Mention All-State 3rd Team Maryland Coaches
Josh Francis	Indoor Track	All-Gazette 1st Team

Ryan Mulsteff	Indoor Track	All-Gazette 1st Team All-State Honorable Mention Maryland Coaches
Devante Thomas	Indoor Track	All-Gazette 1st Team
Wil Zahorodny	Indoor Track	Athlete of the Year Gazette All-Gazette 1st Team Athlete of the Year Washington Post All-Met 1st Team Washington Post All-State 1st Team Maryland Coaches
Evan Zedler	Indoor Track	All-Gazette 1st Team
Sarah VanDoren	Swimming	All-Gazette 1st Team All-American USA Swimming All-Met Honorable Mention Washington Post
Josh Fredrick	Wrestling	Wrestler of the Year Gazette All-Met Honorable Mention Washington Post
Zeke Gammill	Wrestling	All-Gazette Honorable Mention
Brian Wittenberger	Wrestling	All-Gazette 1st Team

Important Notes

Inappropriate Dress

Now that warm weather has returned, students will be dressing more casually. School is a place for business for staff and students. Shorts, pants, and tops that are too revealing can be distracting and are inappropriate for school. We are asking for your support. Please discuss appropriate dress with you child and do whatever you can to monitor their daily attire.

Parking

Parking continues to be an issue at Damascus High School. Please remind students not to park on school grounds unless they have an approved permit. Student cars have been ticketed and tickets cost \$25 each time. Please speak with your student driver so he/she can avoid having his/her car ticketed. We have started towing repeat offenders and towing costs approximately \$150.

Student Obligations- We need your help!

Parents we need your support. As of April 15, we have 500 students from all grade levels who owe obligations. Letters were mailed home in January to students who had an obligation and we listed how much their obligation was. **Students will not be able to attend the Prom/Senior Banquet/Graduation without having paid obligations.** Please make sure your student takes care of this obligation as soon as possible. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Main Office

Parents and students are reminded that sports equipment should be dropped off in the gym training rooms in the mornings where it can be locked up. Please do not drop off or store gym bags and sports equipment in the Main Office.

Juniors:

There is a car wash coming up on Sunday May 4th 9 am to 12 noon. We will need workers. We will also need buckets, washing detergent, hoses, rags, window cleaner, paper towels, etc. Come on out and have a good time with your classmates and help make our Senior events as cheap as possible.

Also

We need a recipe from every Junior for our cookbook. The submission should be emailed to 'classof09recipes@gmail.com'. We need a Parent Volunteer to co-ordinate this project. The cookbooks will be on sale in the Fall and delivered in time for Christmas. Other classes (2005 and 2006) have reported that this as fun as the Year Book to own.

Don't forget to remind your student to update his/her email in EdLine. Ms. Berg and Ms. Wade will use this to communicate all the Senior summer activities. This includes our planning picnic and the painting of the stadium press box. We encourage everyone to participate.

Have a GREAT SUMMER!!

Ms. Wade and MS Berg.

Media Center News

As the weather gets warmer we look toward summer reading and I am reminded to communicate the following. **Teens should read during the summer.** The single most helpful activity to bring SAT scores up is reading. With this in mind, the Media Center will allow students that sign a commitment to check out up to three items for the summer. The commitment will state that all materials must be returned on the first day back to school (August 26, 2008). Fines will be charged for each day after that materials are not returned. Replacement cost will become an obligation after the first week of school.

Damascus High School

MEDIA CENTER - SUMMER CHECKOUT

_____ is checking out Damascus High School Library materials for the summer and agrees to follow the guidelines:

1. Materials will be returned on the first day of school August 26, 2008
2. Overdue fines will start on August 27, 2008.
3. Failure to return the materials by September 2, 2008 will result in a financial obligation for the replacement cost of the item(s).
4. Materials returned damaged will be charged at replacement costs.

I have read and agree to the stipulations stated above.

(Signature)

DHS 2008 Prom Information

Prom plans are completed. Every Junior and Senior received an invitation and information sheet in their English Classes (A copy is on the Damascus HS Web page). Tickets go on sale on April 29th. We will sell everyday before and after school in the main Rotunda area. **Last day** for purchasing prom tickets is Friday, **May 9th** as the Conference Center needs the numbers.

Attention Junior Parents!

We Want to Communicate with You

This past fall your teenager was registered for a program that goes by a couple of monikers: **TCCi, Family Connections, or Naviance**. With this program, a registered user can find information about scholarships, colleges, and careers.

Starting in the fall of 2008, the guidance counselors will use the information created by your teenager in his/her "Resume" when writing a letter of recommendation for colleges, for scholarships, and for employment/internships.

We counselors are requesting that parents review this information with their juniors for accuracy and thoroughness. Also, if you have not been registered with the TCCi/Family Connections/Naviance program, **please ask your teenager to do this with you.**

In the past year, Mr. Ed Martin in the Career Center, along with the counselors, have sent emails about college recruiter visits, reminders about registering for the SATs, employment opportunities, scholarships and many other topics.

Questions? Contact Mr. Ed Martin in the career Center at Edward_K_Martin@mcpsmd.org.

June 2008 Final Exam Schedule- Grades 9-11

Semester exams will be administered in all English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language classes at the end of the semester.

(Electives will conduct a culminating activity during this time frame)

Students are expected to follow this schedule:

	Friday June 6, 2008	Monday June 9, 2008	Tuesday June 10, 2008	Wednesday June 11, 2008
7:30 – 9:30	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
9:30 – 9:55	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:00 – 12:00	Period 7	Period 6	Period 5	Make Up

Transportation will be provided at the usual hours - 7 a.m. & 2:09 p.m.

Parents picking up students after the second exam are asked to do so outside the cafeteria after 12:15 p.m. in order to eliminate traffic problems.

STUDENTS MUST RETURN THEIR BOOK BEFORE TAKING THE EXAM!

**If a parent chooses to allow his/her student to leave campus when not taking an exam, a note must be turned into the main office attendance secretary- See below

Please return to main office by June 5.

I give permission for my student to leave campus from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. during exam week.

Student Name _____

Student Grade _____

Parent Signature _____

Telephone number to reach parents _____

American Mathematics Competition

In February, the Hornet Math Team sponsored the American Mathematics Competition, open to any DHS Student. When the results came back, Julie Eisenberg and Semeon Kotov qualified for the next round of this nationwide competition. In late March they competed for 3 hours in the second round (American Invitational Mathematics Examination) and represented Damascus High School very well. They ranked in the top 1% of students nationwide and will be given awards at the end of the year Awards Ceremony. Several major Universities monitor the performance on this contest and all the participants should be commended for their respectable representation of Damascus High School in the major mathematics competition. Congratulations!

DHS Restaurant Management Student Competes for \$5,000 Whole Foods Scholarship

Zach Williams, a senior at DHS and a star restaurant management student, is competing for a Whole Foods Market culinary scholarship. The scholarship is open to all senior high school students currently enrolled in the "Professional Restaurant Management" or "Hospitality Management" programs in Montgomery County Public Schools. The applicant's minimum grade point average must be 2.5 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA in hospitality coursework.

Finalists will be notified and interviewed on April 16th. Zach's recipe reflects his Jewish heritage and his flair for creativity. His recipe is cedar planked salmon with fresh dill, fresh herb potato latkes, and challah bread.

There are three scholarships awarded in this competition. The top student will receive a \$5000 Whole Foods Market Montgomery County Culinary Scholarship, the second top student a \$2,000 scholarship, and the third top student a \$1000 scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded to the students during the May awards program at the student's school. The scholarship is for aspiring chefs and the proceeds can be used at the school of the student's choice.

According to Zach's restaurant management teacher, Chef/Instructor Bobbie Russell, "Zach did an amazing job with his recipe and is an outstanding student."

Music Notes

- ♪ Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band had a very successful trip to Boston where they performed in competitions. Congratulations to our Instrumental Music Department!
- ♪ Honorable Mentions:
 - ♪ Stephen Leas for winning Outstanding Soloist with the jazz band at festival.
 - ♪ District 22C Lions Honor Band: Alex Mason, Brendan Kelly, Kim Knipe, Kristen Scuderi, Ginni LaRosa, Cadence Martin, Chris Rombold, Dan Heinbaugh, Brandon Lagos, Jon Constantinides, Derek Post, & Allana Gallant
- ♪ Please welcome Mrs. Cynthia Alexander as Mrs. Berry's long-term substitute. She will be substituting for the remainder of the year while Mrs. Berry is out on maternity leave. You can currently email any questions or concerns to her at the following email address: dhsmusic.sub08@yahoo.com. Mrs. Alexander is an experienced musician and teacher. She has much to offer our students!
- ♪ Please mark your calendars for the following instrumental and choral music activities:
 - ♪ Choral Music Concert May 7, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium
 - ♪ Instrumental Music Concert May 6, 7:00 p.m. Auditorium
 - ♪ Music Banquet and Awards Ceremony May 15, 5:00 p.m.
 - ♪ DHS Graduation May 30, (TIME?) Football Field

Art Department News

The Empty Bowls Fundraiser

The First Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser was a huge success! DHS ceramic students and restaurant management students helped raise over \$3,000 through their donations of ceramic bowls and foods. Proceeds from this event benefit the Damascus HELP organization. Thank you once again to all who participated in making this event a success! Additional bowls are on display near the DHS Auditorium (\$10 suggested donation).

Knitting for the Needy Program

DHS senior Jackie Leo initiated and coordinated a new community based effort to benefit foster children in Montgomery County this cause is called Knitting for the Needy. With the aide, support and sponsorship of art teacher Gretchen Goldsmith the DHS Art Club, several community members and individuals from distant places such as England, this collective group bigheartedly donated over 250 items such as, hand knitted items, store purchased outerwear and gently used winter items. Please continue to knit for this cause as it will be an annual event at DHS.

Portfolio Reviews for accelerated art program to be held

The Art Department is seeking out gifted and talented artists to assign to advanced level arts classes! If you are naturally gifted in the arts and perhaps have an interest in the arts as a career option, please email Mrs. Gretchen A. Goldsmith for a portfolio review session. If your body of work demonstrates higher level ability there is a chance that you may be eligible to enroll in advanced level art courses without taking the county suggested pre-requisite such as Studio Art and Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art.

National Art Honor Society NEW at DHS!

This year marks the beginning of a new opportunity for young artists at DHS; the possibility of being accepted into the National Art Honor Society is sponsored by Mrs. Goldsmith. Artist in grades 10-12 who can demonstrate good character (Staff input sought), have earned all A's and B's in **Art related classes** would be eligible for initiation. Once accepted into the society members are expected to attend required monthly meetings and serve a minimum of four art related service hours per semester.

The Annual DHS Student Art Show set for Wednesday May 21st

The Art Department cordially incites you to attend their Annual Art Show. Come as you are...stay 5 minutes or three hours, casual viewing. Any art student enrolled in DHS art courses throughout the 2007-2008 school year may be part of the school wide student Art Show. Work will be on display from May 21st at 4pm until May 22nd 3:00pm. Viewing takes place in the main entrance hall through to the Auditorium hall.

Student Recognition

The following Digital Photography students placed in the state-wide "Green Focus" Photo contest.

Eliza Rownaghi 1st place in the black & white category

Stephanie Williams 2nd place in the color category

Congratulations ladies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The following students' Studio Art, Photography and Digital Photography were selected, and are currently on display in the conference room and selected offices (including Dr. Weast's office) within Montgomery County Public Schools' Board of Education building:

Susie Benenati	Chelsea Goldsmith	Nisha Ijaz	Ashley Pitman
Colleen Beringer	Daniel Gonzalez	Devon Janney	Eliza Rownaghi
Tyler Clifford	Malia Greger	Jessica Kim	Madeline Waters
Anthony Dye	Kristen Holcomb	Jaclyn Leo	Stephanie Williams
Rachel Ellis	Megan Holt	Natalie Liguori	Alexandra Yanus
Amanda Ervin	Rachel Hooks	Meena Ng	

Way to go guys! Great publicity for the many talents within the DHS art department!!!

Advanced Digital Photography offered at DHS

The Art Department would like to thank art teacher Laura Schley for piloting her Digital Photography syllabus for MCPS while at DHS. This course has been a wonderful success! Second year photography artists are encouraged to sign up for this course especially if they are intending to attend college in an art related major. Thank you Mr. Will (40+ year teacher in MCPS) for investing the time to set up and institute the Digital Photography Lab!

Summer School

On the high school level, students may enroll in summer school courses and programs for a variety of reasons. For example, students who fail an academic class such as English 9A can retake that class during the first 3 week summer

school session. Students may also repeat an academic course such as Algebra 2B if they believe they did not adequately learn the material. Since success in math courses requires a thorough understanding of math fundamentals and previous course knowledge, this course of action might be appropriate for some students. A third reason students may attend summer school is to gain career exploration experience while earning both a letter grade and high school credits. The summer internship offers several options such as exploratory career internships, specialized internships, and engineering technology internships. Finally, students may take the required Health course during the summer so that another elective can be taken during the school year. The summer school Health class can be taken either on-line or at one of the four (4) high school locations.

Brochures for the 2008 Summer School program are available at Damascus High School and registration begins May 19th at the specific summer school location. Registration forms and fee reduction waiver vouchers are available also available in this office.

NOTE: Registration for the summer internship program has an earlier registration deadline. To register for an online course, complete the online registration form at: www.montgomeryschools.org/departments/onlinelearning

All summer school courses require a counselor's signature. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss with a counselor the summer school dates, class hours, and expectations prior to registration.

For more information, please contact the Counseling Office at 301.-253.-7037 or visit the website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/summerschool/>

DHS PLAYSCHOOL ENROLLMENT- CHILD DEVELOPMENT

DHS Playschool is currently enrolling preschool children for the 2008-2009 school year. This program is open to our Damascus community and is run in conjunction with Child Development classes. Children need to be 4 years of age by September 1, 2008; toilet trained, and have the required immunizations and health forms on file by the beginning of Playschool. We will be enrolling 12 children for a morning session, from approximately 8:30 to 10:45 am, Monday through Thursday. The program follows the MCPS calendar and any weather-related closings or delays. Tuition is \$225 per semester, \$450 per school year. A \$50, non-refundable, deposit holds a space for the upcoming school year.

The daily routine for the playschool children begins with free play and arrival time activities. Lessons and activities are play-based and include language arts, music, art, movement, math, science, blocks, and dramatic play.

The Child Development Program is a two-fold educational experience in which preschool children and high school students learn together. High school students learn the basic principles of development, are introduced to theorists, and learn how to plan and implement developmentally appropriate lessons for preschool children. The children are involved in planned, creative activities and experiences in a warm and friendly environment.

Through these experiences DHS Child Development students help the playschool children make a more gradual transition from home to kindergarten, learn to share and cooperate, become part of a group setting, and realize that school, like home, is a place where one can be loved, feel secure, cared for and protected.

For more information or to begin the enrollment process please contact:

Leslie Coggins 301/253-7069 or Leslie_K_Coggins@mcpsmd.org

Learn to ride ...

DHS Child Development students Nicole Roles and Bethany Uher recently planned an activity to teach our DHS Playschool children about school bus safety. Darlene Smith, an MCPS school bus driver, took time out of her busy day to participate in this learning experience for our preschool children. She spoke to them about following the rules of bus safety; being respectful, responsible and safe. Ms. Smith gave the children a ride on the school bus to prepare them for next year when they enter kindergarten. She also handed out "Ride by the Rules", a parents guide to bus safety. This was an important introductory lesson for these young children.

HSA and Senior Exam Schedule

Students who are not testing are not required to attend school until 11:00 a.m.

**Monday, May 19
HSA – Government**

**Tuesday, May 20
HSA – English**

<p>Testing 7:25-10:30 Lunch 10:30-11:00</p> <p>Senior Exam for periods 6 & 7</p> <p>PD 6 11:05-11:55 PD 7 12:00-12:50 PD 4 12:55-1:30 PD 5 1:35-2:09</p>	<p>Testing 7:25-10:45 Lunch 10:45-11:15</p> <p>Senior Exam for periods 4 & 5</p> <p>PD 4 11:20-12:10 PD 5 12:15-1:05 PD 2 1:10-1:37 PD 3 1:42-2:09</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 21 HSA – Biology</p> <p>Testing 7:25-10:30 Lunch 10:30-11:00</p> <p>Senior Exam for periods 2 & 3</p> <p>PD 2 11:05-11:55 PD 3 12:00-12:50 PD 1 12:55-1:30 PD 4 1:35-2:09</p>	<p>Thursday, May 22 HSA – Algebra 1</p> <p>Testing 7:25-10:30 Lunch 10:30-11:00</p> <p>Senior Exam for periods 1 & make-up</p> <p>PD 1 11:05-11:55 PD 5 12:00-12:50 PD 6 12:55-1:30 PD 7 1:35-2:09</p>
<p>Friday, May 23 Regular 7 period day No HSA Exams and No Senior Exams</p>	
<p>Lunch provided in the cafeteria from 10:00 to 10:30 for students <i>not</i> testing. Bus transportation provided each day at <i>regular time</i>. Students who arrive early and who are not taking the H.S.A. must report to the cafeteria for study hall. The cafeteria <i>study hall</i> will be open 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</p>	

Damascus High School's Study Circle: Talk-it-Out

On April 18, 2008, eighteen students and five staff members are going over to the Damascus Recreation Center to participate in an all-day study circle program sponsored by MCPS and DHS. Study circles are growing in both middle and high schools in MCPS in response to Dr. Weast's Call to Action. Mr. Robert Domergue, Principal, and Brittany Johnson, DHS junior and member of the MCPS Student Government Association, are taking the lead at DHS. In fact, Brittany selected the name "Talk-it-Out" to represent our circle.

Study circles address one basic question--How do our racial and ethnic differences impact student achievement? The goal of Talk-it-Out is to address this question by bringing staff and students together from different backgrounds, and with the help of trained facilitators, build relationships, develop a better understanding of the challenges, and plan action steps to help all students succeed.

The following students volunteered to participate:

Kojo Achiampong
Karine Aghekyan
Gabriela Aguilar
Sadia Ali
Kathleen Bush

David Carranza
Thomas Creegan
Laura Cunningham
Deon Gray
Jasmin Hagins

Brittney Johnson
Usman Khan
Jacqueline Loberiza
Ernesto Mejia
Robert Patton

Megan Patton
Griselda Raymundo
Ethan Tran

Student Assistance in DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL

Montgomery County Public Schools - Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
Committed to helping at-risk students succeed in school by removing barriers to learning

What Is Student Assistance?

Student Assistance is a school-based substance use and violence intervention program under the auspices of Montgomery County Public Schools Safe and Drug-Free Schools. Student Assistance is focused on prevention through intervention and is not related to collecting “evidence” for criminal prosecution or school discipline.

What Is the Goal of Student Assistance?

Most substance usage and/or violent behavior takes place off school grounds out of the jurisdiction of school officials, yet many of the effects of this are reflected in students’ performance in school. The goal of Student Assistance is to identify and help adolescents whose behavior, attendance, or grades indicate that they may have problems related to alcohol and/or other drug use or violence. Through the different steps that comprise the Student Assistance process, these-at-risk adolescents are referred for a professional assessment and directed to appropriate services.

How Does Student Assistance Work?

• CONFIDENTIALLY •

Any school staff member, parent, community member, or student can express concern. Students may refer themselves. A “Concern Form” is submitted to the Student Assistance team leader and a data collection process begins. Behavioral observations are made to determine if indicators, such as drop in grades, increase in absences, or frequent visits to the nurse, indicate problems. If there are insufficient indicators of a problem, the matter is dropped and all data is destroyed. If, however, the data collected indicates the need for further assessment, the data is shared with the student’s parent(s)/guardian who participate in an intervention. Only the behaviors are shared with the parent(s)/guardian. Any information concerning who made the original referral is strictly confidential. A referral or “concern” is often submitted without the concerned person’s name.

• REFERRAL •

The Student Assistance team may be comprised of administrators, teachers, counselors, security personnel, instructional assistants, building service workers, office personnel, cafeteria workers, the school psychologist, school nurse, attendance secretary, pupil personnel worker, and other trained staff who may be in contact with students.

If you have concerns about a student, please complete a confidential Concern Form and return it to the Student Assistance locked box in the guidance office, health room, or media center.

If you would like further information about Student Assistance, you may contact the team leader at DAMASCUS HS

Student Assistance Team Leader’s Name:

SARA CLARK - SECURITY & BERNADETTE PLESNIAK, RN - SCHOOL NURSE

Team Members:

Colleen DJouha – Guidance Counselor
 Marty Higgins – Guidance Counselor
 Pat Villani – Guidance Counselor

Joe Doody – Teacher
 Sheri Miller – Inst. Assistant

Gretchen Goldsmith – Teacher
 Martha Wade Kellar – SP. & LG.

Student Assistance (Cont’d)

Help Is As Near As the Phone			
Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)			
Safe and Drug Free Schools	301-279-3041	MCPS Safe Schools Hotline	301-517-5995
Montgomery County Crisis Center Hotline	301-738-2255	Montgomery County Immediate Crisis Line	240-777-4000
Montgomery County Screening and Assessment Services for Children and Adolescents			
free for drug/mental health screening	240-777-1430		
Montgomery County Youth Services:			
Bethesda YMCA Youth Services	301-530-3725	GUIDE Gaithersburg Youth Services	301-258-6440
GUIDE Olney Youth Services	301-774-3581	GUIDE Germantown Youth Services	301-972-0307
Kensington/Wheaton Youth Services	301-933-2818	Rockville Youth Services	240-314-8310
Silver Spring YMCA Youth Services	301-593-1160	Montgomery County Gang Hotline	240-773-GANG
Montgomery County Drug Tip Hotline	240-773-DRUG	Montgomery County Party Information	301-670-SAFE

Others			
Operation Runaway @ Potomac Ridge	800-204-8600	Family Crisis Division	240-773-5424
Cocaine Hotline	800-COCAINE	Alcoholics Anonymous	202-966-9115
AA Spanish Hotline	202-722-4707	AL-Anon and Alateen	202-882-1334
Narcotics Anonymous	202-399-5316		

Student Assistance

Confidential Concern Form

I am concerned about:

Name of Student

Grade

Reason for Concern:
(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drop in academic performance | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased absence from school | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression, anxiety, frequent mood swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Destructive behavior against others or self | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negative attitudes | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim of bullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of possible alcohol and other drug use | <input type="checkbox"/> Display of violent behavior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns/comments: | |

Signature (optional)

Date

After completing this form, place it in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and place it in the designated box in the guidance office, health room, or media center.

From the PTSA's President...

THANK YOU!

As the year rapidly winds down I would like to thank everyone for their support of the PTSA. I think our year went very well and I am very excited to have my officers and most of my committee chairs returning with me again in the fall (pending our election on May 8). Very special thanks goes to **Jon Yahirun**, our SGA president who came to every meeting to give us the student's view of what was happening at DHS. Jon was a wonderful addition to our meetings and we wish him well in the future!

ADVERTISING

I want to thank Gina King for stepping up to the plate to help us collect ads for next fall's student directory during the summer months. We will be accepting ads for goods and services offered here in the Damascus and surrounding areas. We will be finalizing our prices and order forms at our May 20th PTSA meeting. Cathy Hocker will also be assisting in the layout and design of the ads.

CELL PHONES

It has come to my attention that we parents are part of the problem of student's cell phones ringing during class time. Cell phones are supposed to be turned OFF during the school day. Please, if you need to reach your student during school hours, call the main office at 301-253-7030, and they will be happy to deliver the message for you.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Did you know that on average over 110 people volunteer over 1200 hours to the school monthly and that is only the statistics that have been reported to me? I am sure these numbers could easily be doubled with accurate reporting. If you help with any activity here at school – during class time, or after school - with music, drama, clubs and/or sports – could you make sure a representative of you group emails me this month to let me know of your volunteer hours? Let's get Damascus High the recognition it deserves!

POST PROM PARTY

As this goes to press Sue Shepherd and her group are putting the final touches on our Post Prom party at Dave & Busters on May 17. She and her group have worked very hard to make this year's event a big success. Thank you very much Sue and your dedicated group of volunteers.

EXTRA GRADUATION TICKETS

Senior parents – make sure you come to the 12th grade parent meeting on May 13th to get the full details. Jennifer McGolrick has generously offered her time to this special project and will be your contact person.

PTSA SCHOLARSHIPS

The PTSA will be offering three \$500.00 scholarships this year. Stay tuned to hear who won!

Don't forget - If you would like to help or offer input into next year's plans for PTSA, please feel free to email me at DHSptsa@gmail.com. Senor parents feel free to email me tidbits of wisdom. Baker and Rocky Hill parents of incoming ninth graders welcome! If you would like to get involved I would love your input.

See you all on May 20th at 7pm in the media center for our last meeting of the school year and have a great summer!

Bettianne Quinn
PTSA President

From the DHS Athletic Department

Athletic Scholarship Program – May 22 at 6:30 in room 120.

Pompon Tryouts – tryout packets available at DHS

Wednesday, May 21 Tuesday, May 27 Wednesday, May 28 Thursday, May 29

Cheerleading Tryouts – tryout packets available at DHS

Thursday, May 22 Tuesday, May 27 Wednesday, May 28 Thursday, May 29

Sports Information Night

Monday, June 2 @ 7:00 in the DHS auditorium

This night is for all 8th grade athletes and their parents to gain valuable information about DHS athletics. Come and hear about specific rules concerning physicals, eligibility, etc. Athletes and parents can meet the coaches to ask questions and to get information about summer camps and workout programs.

Damascus High School
Parent-Teacher-Student Association
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Damascus, MD 20872-1891

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